United Nations S/2018/17

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 January 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 5 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 3–5 January 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

18-00512 (E) 120118 150118

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Annex to the letter dated 5 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (3 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 10 incidents of gunfire: 8 in Aleppo Governorate and 2 in Ladhiqiyah Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported 11 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 4 in Aleppo, 3 in Damascus, 2 in Idlib and 2 in Ladhiqiyah.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations.

In total, 1,719 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,378.7 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 39 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 67,687 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,320.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (4 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 11 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 5 in Aleppo, 3 in Ladhiqiyah, 2 in Dar'a and 1 in Homs.

The Turkish representative office has reported seven violations in the following Governorates: four in Idlib, one in Aleppo, one in Damascus and one in Dar'a.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations.

In total, 1,719 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,378.7 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 37 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 67,724 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, one ceasefire agreement has been signed with Za'faranah in Homs Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,321.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (5 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported six incidents of gunfire: four in Aleppo Governorate and two in Ladhiqiyah Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported six violations in the following Governorates: three in Damascus, two in Idlib and one in Aleppo.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations.

In total, 1,719 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,378.7 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 48 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 67,772 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,321.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations A/ES-10/765–S/2018/18

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
9 January 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 5 January 2018 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The Palestinian people living in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, have begun yet another year under Israel's belligerent military occupation and the prospects of ending Israel's illegal occupation and decades-long injustice remain as bleak as ever. This year, the holiday season, along with the first couple of days of the new year, were significantly subdued, with spirits dampened by a new wave of violence directed at the Palestinian people by Israeli occupying forces, which was sparked by a decision taken on 6 December 2017 by the current administration of the United States of America recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

In fact, in the wake of the US Administration's decision mentioned above, violations by Israel have only intensified, as the occupying Power clearly felt emboldened to carry out its illegal practices and measures with complete impunity. Over the past few weeks, killings, injuries, the imprisonment of Palestinian civilians and attacks against the occupied Gaza Strip have continued unabated. Just yesterday, a 17-year-old child was killed after being shot in the chest by Israeli occupying forces in the village of Tuqu, south of Bethlehem. This latest death marks the sixteenth Palestinian killed by Israeli occupying forces since the US Administration's decision of 6 December and comes only days after Musab Firas Al-Tamimi, also aged 17, from the village of Deir Nitham, was killed after being shot in the neck by Israeli occupying forces.

In addition to the above, Israel's right-wing Government continues to recklessly add fuel to an already burning fire by taking unilateral, provocative and illegal decisions which further illustrate that Israel, the occupying Power, has abandoned all restraint and is doing everything in its power to bury the two-State solution and any chance for a real peace. In this regard, we write to condemn and protest in the strongest manner the unanimous decision taken by the Likud party and concurrence by its right-wing coalition partners on 1 January 2018 to annex the Occupied West Bank and impose Israeli "sovereignty" on illegal Jewish settlements and to require the approval of 80 Knesset members (out of 120) to "return any part of Jerusalem to

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the Palestinians". In public comments regarding this illegal decision, a member of the Knesset stated that the "goal of the bill is to prevent concessions as part of diplomatic deals". That same member of the Knesset also stated that "Jerusalem will never be on the negotiating table" and that "the State of Israel will not allow for the establishment of a Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem".

It is clear that this recent so-called law attempts to severely change the status of Jerusalem and to create an illegal Israeli and Jewish exclusivity over all of Jerusalem — a city whose status remains that of "corpus separatum" under General Assembly resolution 181 (II). Under international law, Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem is unlawful and constitutes a direct breach of Israel's obligations as a belligerent occupier. It must be noted that this latest illegal so-called legislation by the occupying Power is a continuation in its series of "laws", proposals and measures that expose its true intention to alter the character, status and demographic composition of Jerusalem and to impose a de facto one-State solution. As has been repeated by the Palestinian leadership, led by President Mahmoud Abbas, without East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, the chances for peace will be destroyed indefinitely.

In addition, the occupying Power continues to further destabilize the already perilous situation on the ground with its recent announcement of its intention to build 1 million settler units in the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The first of these announcements was made today. In this regard, according to Peace Now, an Israeli human rights organization, more than 1,329 illegal settlement units will be approved next week. Israeli settlements built in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, represent a flagrant violation of international law and constitute the single biggest threat to peace and the two-State solution, which also has led to settler violence, home demolitions and the denial of development for the Palestinian people under Israel's occupation.

The international community has a clear legal position on the status of the Occupied State of Palestine, including occupied East Jerusalem, and must reject all violations of that status and demand that Israel's unilateral, provocative and illegal decisions be condemned and regarded as null and void. In addition to recalling General Assembly resolution 181 (II), we again must recall relevant Security Council resolutions which remain valid and must be implemented, including resolutions 476 (1980) and 478 (1980) and the Council's latest resolution 2334 (2016), in which the Council affirmed that "it will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations". Moreover, most recently the General Assembly, at its resumed tenth emergency special session, on 21 December 2017, adopted resolution ES-10/19, in which it stressed once again the abiding international position on Jerusalem, reaffirming the Assembly's compendium of relevant resolutions along with those of the Security Council.

The responsibilities of the international community are clear, and upholding the law and holding Israel to account for its breaches are more urgent than ever. Serious efforts must be undertaken by the international community, in particular the Security Council, to implement resolution 2334 (2016) and all other relevant United Nations resolutions. The Security Council must shoulder its responsibilities and act urgently to avert the further destabilization of an already extremely volatile situation which clearly poses a threat to international peace and security. We call for all efforts to be made to restore the rule of law and to finally resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and establish just and lasting peace, in which the Palestinian people can finally live as a free people in their independent and sovereign State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side in peace and security with all of its neighbours.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 621 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 14 November 2017 (A/ES-10/763-S/2017/958) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations S/2018/19

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 January 2018

Original: English

Identical letters dated 5 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing again with regard to the continued military hostilities committed by Iranian-backed Houthi militias in flagrant violation of the security and safety of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Charter of the United Nations, rules and principles of international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

On 5 January 2018, at 7.56 a.m., the air defence forces of the coalition to restore legitimacy in Yemen spotted the launch of a ballistic missile from Yemeni territory towards the lands of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The missile was deliberately launched towards the city of Najran in southern Saudi Arabia to target civilian areas and the civilian population, but was intercepted and destroyed. The scattered fragments of the missile caused damage to several buildings and properties.

Iran's proliferation of ballistic missiles to the Houthi rebel militias is widely evident and continues to pose serious regional and global threats, as has been reflected in the fourth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2017/1030, dated 8 December 2017). On so many occasions, Iranian illicit weapons have been intercepted by several Member States and the Combined Maritime Forces. Moreover, Houthi rebel militias have been complicit in launching numerous Iranian ballistic missile attacks inside Yemen and across the border of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in clear and flagrant violation of international law.

We call upon the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility, and we insist on the full and immediate implementation of its resolutions 2216 (2015) and 2231 (2015). The Council must condemn, in clear and unambiguous language, Iran for supporting the Houthi rebel militias in their terrorist crimes and their threat to the region's security and safety and international peace and security.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative

18-00231 (E) 090118

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United Nations S/2018/20

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 January 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 5 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey to you that the President of the Republic of the Sudan, Omer Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir, issued a presidential decree on 4 January 2018 to extend the unilateral ceasefire in all operation areas until 31 March 2018. This decision is aimed at creating a conducive atmosphere for resuming the negotiations led by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel with the remnants of the rebel movements.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

18-00237 (E) 080118

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United Nations S/2018/21

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 January 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 8 January 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the summary statement by the Secretary-General of matters of which the Security Council is seized and of the stage reached in their consideration (S/2018/10, dated 2 January 2018).

I should like to notify you that the Government of Georgia wishes to see the following item, listed in paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned document, retained in the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized:

"The situation in Georgia"

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Elene **Agladze**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations

18-00274 (E) 100118

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United Nations S/2018/22

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 January 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 8 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the consent of the Sudan Government to the establishment of a temporary operating base in Golo, in Central Darfur State. In this respect, I am attaching a self-explanatory note delivered on 7 January 2018 to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan (see annex).

Having brought this matter to your attention, I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

18-00362 (E) 120118 160118

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Annex to the letter dated 8 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan presents its compliments to the African Union — United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and has the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2363 (2017), which addresses the requirements for the first and second phases of the Operation's exit strategy. The latter include cooperation to open a temporary operating base in the Golo area of Jebel Marra. Consultations have been held for that purpose with UNAMID. Most recently, the national committee on facilitating the exit of UNAMID met with UNAMID command on 13 December 2017 at the offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. UNAMID gave a presentation on the goals of the temporary operating base. In that connection, the Ministry wishes to state as follows:

1. The Government of the Sudan has allocated the land necessary for the establishment of the temporary base. We should be grateful if you could provide a time frame for the beginning and end of deployment to the base; in accordance with Security Council resolution 2363 (2017), the latter is temporary.

2. We should like to know what plans are in place with regard to humanitarian activities at the base and, in particular, how the beneficiaries are to be identified, how their needs are to be assessed, and what outcomes are anticipated. A joint assessment of humanitarian needs in the region has been made in cooperation with the United Nations and its agencies, and humanitarian work is already taking place in a smooth and organized manner.

3. UNAMID had provided detailed information regarding the deployment plan of the military component of the base. We should also like to receive detailed information regarding the types of activities that are being planned with a view to promoting peace and stability in the manner described in the resolution.

4. When they met in Zalingei to discuss the temporary base in Golo, the governor of Central Darfur state informed the Joint Special Representative and Head of UNAMID of some requirements for the promotion of stability and peace in the state. The Joint Special Representative agreed to those requirements.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan takes this opportunity to convey to UNAMID the assurances of its highest consideration. It is committed to working with UNAMID to implement all of the requirements of Security Council resolution 2363 (2017) and will do all that is necessary in order to enable UNAMID to fulfil its mission in the most comprehensive way.

United Nations S/2018/23

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 January 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 5 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Further to my previous identical letters of 2 January 2018 (S/2018/6), and on instructions from my Government, I am writing to inform you that, on Wednesday, 3 January 2018 at 1010 hours, a military air transport aircraft of the United Arab Emirates (serial No. DHC-6) coming from United Arab Emirates airspace and heading towards Bahrain violated the airspace of Qatar. It flew over the exclusive economic zone of Qatar without prior authorization from the competent Qatari authorities (a map of the aircraft's flight path is attached). A Qatari fighter jet was immediately dispatched on to conduct a patrol. The aircraft of the United Arab Emirates flew between air corridors UL-768 and UM-600 before landing in Bahrain at 1127 hours.

This is not the first such deplorable incident: the United Arab Emirates have persistently violated the sovereignty of Qatar, posing a threat to the integrity of its borders and territory. Such actions show that the authorities of the United Arab Emirates are intent on violating international law, conventions and norms. This incident is in line with the ongoing, irresponsible acts of provocation being committed unilaterally by the United Arab Emirates against Qatar. In addition to being a threat to regional stability and security, those acts are also a direct violation of the principles of respecting State sovereignty and maintaining international security and peace that are set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

While the Government of Qatar is keen to maintain good relations with neighbouring States, it strongly condemns and rejects any violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Should such a violation recur, Qatar, in order to preserve its legitimate sovereign right, will take every measure required to defend its borders, airspace and national security, in accordance with international laws and norms.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative

18-00437 (E) 120118 120118

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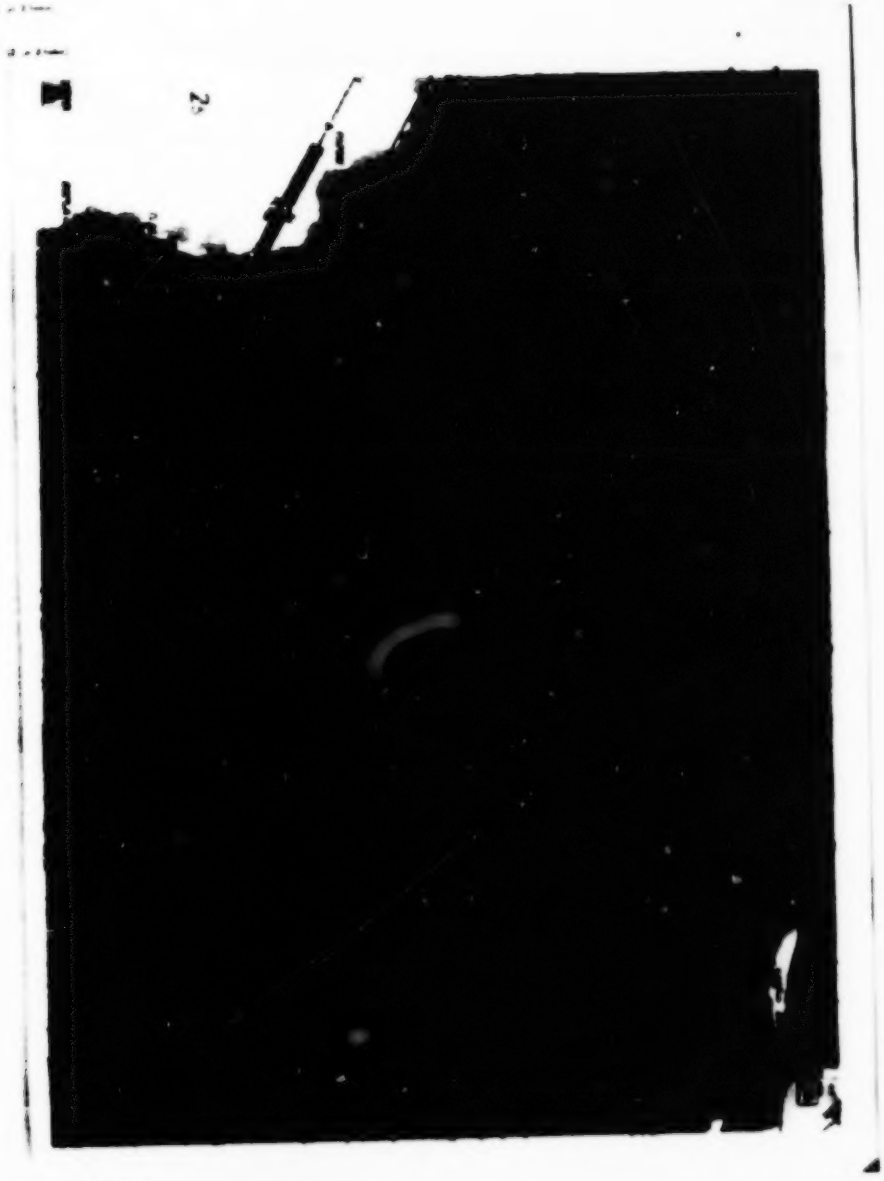
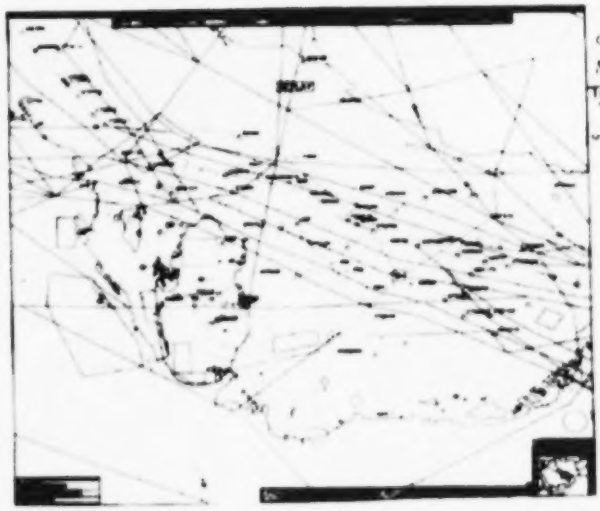
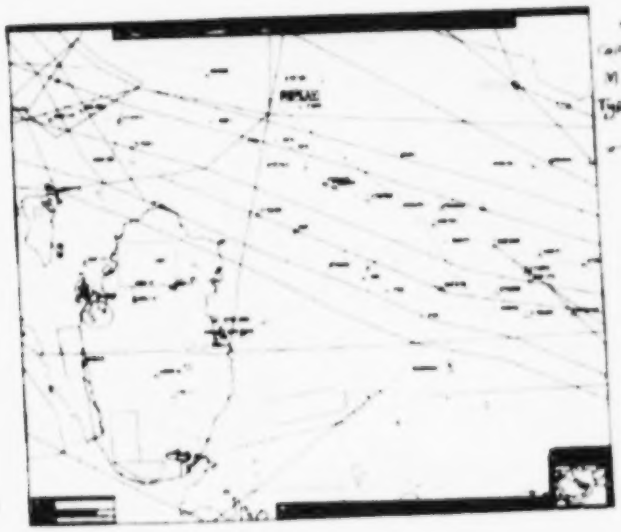
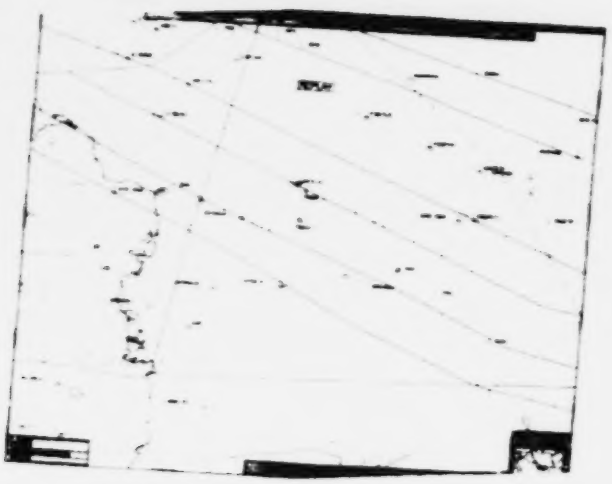
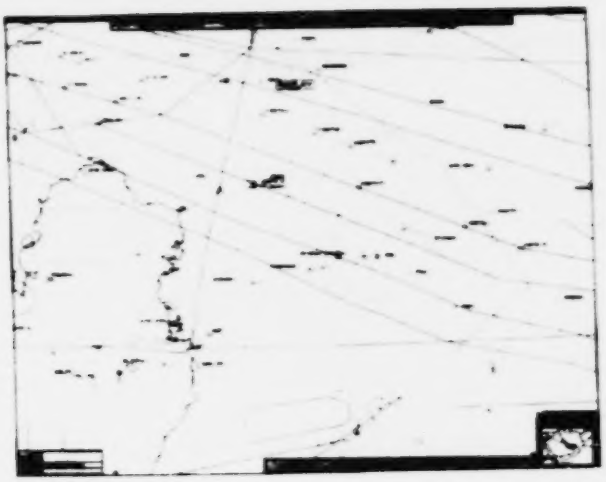
Annex to the identical letters dated 5 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

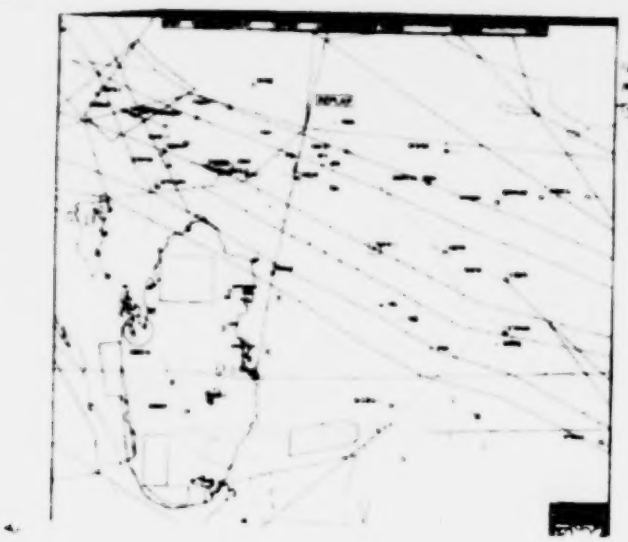


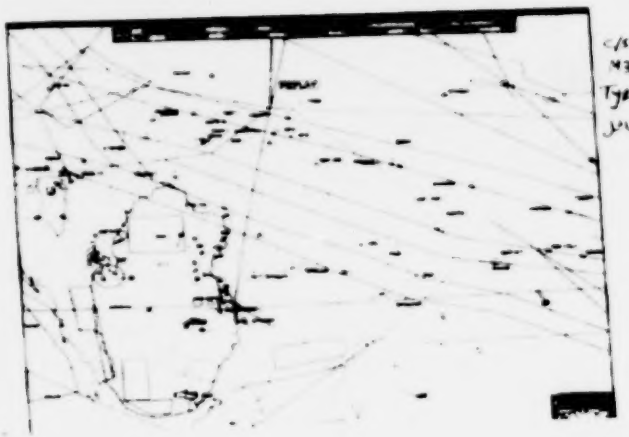


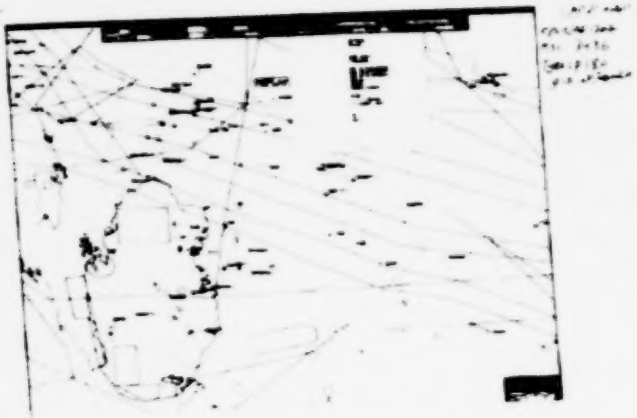












United Nations S/2018/24

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 January 2018
English
Original: Spanish

Letter dated 8 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the summary statement of matters of which the Security Council is seized and of the stage reached in their consideration, as contained in document S/2018/10, dated 2 January 2018.

In accordance with the established procedure, I should like to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Cuba requests that the following four matters brought to the Council's attention by the Republic of Cuba should remain on the list of matters of which the Council is currently seized:

- Letter dated 11 July 1960 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/4378)
- Letter dated 31 December 1960 from the Minister for External Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/4605)
- Complaint by Cuba (S/10993)
- Letter dated 2 February 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/21120)

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Anayansi **Rodríguez Camejo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-00351 (E) 110118 110118

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United Nations S/2018/25*

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 January 2018

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus

I. Introduction

1. The present report on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) covers developments from 23 June to 18 December 2017. It brings up to date, since the issuance of my report dated 10 July 2017 (S/2017/586), the record of activities carried out by UNFICYP pursuant to Security Council resolution 186 (1964) and subsequent Council resolutions, most recently resolution 2369 (2017).

2. As at 15 December 2017, the strength of the military component stood at 887 (84 women) for all ranks, while the strength of the police component stood at 67 (19 women) (see annex).

II. Significant political developments

3. Since the closing of the Conference on Cyprus in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, on 7 July 2017, and the issuance on 28 September 2017 of the report on my mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/2017/814), the sides have remained in a period of reflection to determine if and when conditions would mature again towards a meaningful process to reach a comprehensive settlement.

4. Also during the reporting period, the presidential elections in Cyprus scheduled for January 2018 were increasingly at the centre of the political discourse, and electoral campaigning was taking place in the Turkish Cypriot community in advance of the elections to take place in the north of the island on 7 January. The political and security environment on and around the island was marked by heightened activity surrounding the exploration for natural gas reserves in the exclusive economic zone of Cyprus, compounding mutual suspicion among relevant stakeholders.

III. Strategic review of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

5. As requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2369 (2017), I tasked the Secretariat with conducting a strategic review of UNFICYP focused on findings and recommendations for how the Force should be optimally configured to implement its

* Reissued for technical reasons on 15 January 2018.

17-23571* (E) 150118

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existing mandate, based exclusively on a rigorous evidence-based assessment of the impact of UNFICYP activities. A team led by an independent expert, Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, reviewed the current configuration of the Force and its functions, tasks and activities and their impact, and drew up recommendations based on evidence from the field visit. The recommendations were presented in my report to the Council on the strategic review (S/2017/1008).

IV. Activities of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

6. The Force is mandated to prevent a recurrence of fighting and to contribute to the maintenance of law and order and a return to normal conditions. By patrolling the 180-kilometre buffer zone, the military and police components of UNFICYP help to prevent military violations or incidents that could raise tension between the opposing forces, between civilians and military personnel and among civilians. Continual liaison by UNFICYP with military, police and civilian counterparts on both sides of the island is critical in the absence of direct contact between those bodies. The civilian component of UNFICYP, in coordination with the military and police components, works inter alia to manage civilian activity in the buffer zone and build confidence between the two communities through a variety of intercommunal initiatives, contributing to broader United Nations efforts to support the peace process.

A. Prevention of a recurrence of fighting and maintenance of the military status quo

7. The integrity and stability of the buffer zone were maintained throughout the reporting period. The relationship and interaction that UNFICYP has built and maintained with the opposing forces remained essential to preserving the stability. The military component of UNFICYP continued to liaise regularly with the opposing forces at all levels, addressing all issues with both sides in a timely fashion and keeping informed through patrolling, observation and detailed situational awareness. In that manner, UNFICYP significantly contributed to reducing the potential for an escalation of low-level incidents. In recent years, the increased volume of authorized and unauthorized civilian activity in the buffer zone has made such incidents more likely.

8. Challenges to the authority of UNFICYP in the buffer zone, including unauthorized civilian constructions, were also recorded. Civilian construction activity both in and adjacent to the buffer zone is a concern, especially where it can be construed as providing a military advantage.

9. The lack of an agreed set of rules between the opposing forces and UNFICYP with regard to activity in and around the buffer zone remains a concern. No efforts were made by the sides to discuss an updated version of the aide-memoire of 1989, a document which, despite repeated calls by the Council, has never been recognized. In the absence of a political settlement and with no immediate prospect of direct communication between the military commanders, a process to update and agree upon a modern interpretation of the aide-memoire would help to resolve many issues and alleviate ongoing tensions.

10. Unauthorized incursions into the buffer zone by civilians remained problematic. Such incursions have the potential to escalate into military incidents, in particular if

either of the opposing forces moves forward to confront the civilians. During the reporting period, such incidents involved farmers operating without due care close to the ceasefire lines and armed hunters, who could be confused with military personnel owing to their camouflage clothing and possession of weapons, in the buffer zone. It is essential that civilian authorities on both sides assist UNFICYP in addressing the increasing instances of illegal entry into and abuse of authorized access to the buffer zone, especially when such instances could trigger a response from the opposing forces. It is therefore welcomed that, during the reporting period, the authorities of Cyprus agreed to amend official maps that currently show authorized hunting areas within the buffer zone. During the review team's visit, UNFICYP received assurances from the highest political level of the Government of Cyprus that its authority to regulate civilian activities in the buffer zone is recognized. Officials further committed to supporting the Force's efforts to ensure that the permit system works effectively and that its authority to manage civilian activity in the buffer zone is respected.

11. The prevalence of closed-circuit television equipment at positions that remain manned and other incremental enhancements of military positions continued to be a concern. Closed-circuit television equipment confers a military advantage, unless the position is unmanned. Although no new cameras were observed in 2017, the existing manned positions with cameras installed are considered violations. In addition, military positions established by both forces inside the buffer zone that violate the status quo, in particular at Strovilia, remained in place and are classified as permanent violations. The United Nations continues to hold the Government of Turkey responsible for the status quo in Varosha.

B. Demining activity

12. UNFICYP completed the outstanding non-technical surveys of 25 former National Guard minefields from the list of 28 legacy minefields, the locations of which had been provided to the Turkish Cypriot leader by the Greek Cypriot leader as part of the package of confidence-building measures announced in May 2015. Technical surveys were conducted on three of the minefields that required additional intervention, releasing 4,048 square metres of land. The operations, which were carried out by the Mine Action Service, helped both communities to make progress towards their shared goal of a mine-free Cyprus. In addition, the Mine Action Service provided awareness-raising training to UNFICYP troops and police on the threat from landmines and explosive remnants of war and technical support to the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, and inspected UNFICYP small arms ammunition storage facilities to ensure compliance with international standards. The Mine Action Service also initiated a comprehensive review of the UNFICYP mine action database to reconcile demining information and facilitate safe operations and future demining.

13. As noted in my previous reports, clearance of the Mammari minefield, which lies just north of the buffer zone, remains a priority to ensure that mines cannot be displaced again into the buffer zone and threaten the community or the operations of UNFICYP. I am pleased to report that a critical portion of the minefield was cleared by international mine action organizations operating on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot side.

14. Such progress notwithstanding, the two sides have not begun clearance of the four known remaining minefields in the buffer zone, of which three belong to the National Guard and one to the Turkish forces. While the Turkish Cypriot side has

indicated that it would accept the clearance of all four areas as a package, the Greek Cypriot side maintains the position that its three minefields are required to counter a perceived threat. In addition to the lack of progress on the minefields in the buffer zone, no additional areas have been released for survey or clearance. Regrettably, the Turkish Forces rejected the request made by UNFICYP to clear a small portion of land around one of its permanently manned positions adjacent to the Deryneia/Derinya minefield for safety reasons. In the absence of future tasking, the demining capacity of UNFICYP was demobilized on 30 November 2017. The Force retained a technical capacity and non-technical survey contingency to conduct new activities when access is permitted.

C. Restoration of normal conditions and humanitarian functions

15. The Force continued to contribute to a return to normal conditions through facilitating and regulating the use of the buffer zone by civilians. The demand by civilians for permits to access the area remained high during the reporting period. The Force issued 890 permits for approved civilian activities, an increase of more than 23 per cent compared with the same period in 2016, and approved 9 of 12 applications for minor civilian construction projects in the buffer zone.

16. The Force managed civilian activity in the sensitive area of the buffer zone through continual engagement with civilian authorities, community representatives and civilians. Several cases provoked tensions. For example, during the past six months, individual farmers from both communities have repeatedly entered the buffer zone to work without authorization, some close to the opposing forces. Disputes have also arisen when farmers cultivate land that is not their own in the buffer zone. The provision of vector data would help UNFICYP to map and improve its monitoring of activity in the buffer zone, and I am pleased to report that, the Republic of Cyprus made a commitment that UNFICYP would be granted access to such data.

17. I reiterate the need for both sides to support and respect the authority of UNFICYP in order to prevent and resolve civilian tensions in this sensitive area. In that context, I note that the University in Pyla continues to operate without UNFICYP authorization.

18. During the reporting period, the police component of UNFICYP contributed to the maintenance of law and order in the buffer zone through its facilitation of investigations by the respective police forces into criminal matters in the area. The Force also sought to address numerous incursions into the buffer zone. During the reporting period, 381 unauthorized incursions, including 101 hunting incursions, were recorded, compared with 162, including 44 hunting incursions, during the same period in 2016.

19. The Force continued to engage with the police on both sides through liaison officers and at the level of the Senior Police Adviser. The work of the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters and the Joint Communications Room intensified. During the first 11 months of 2017, the number of information exchanges between the two sides through the Joint Communications Room was 295, which was 66 per cent higher than during the same period in 2016. The exchanges of information, which UNFICYP facilitated, covered a broad spectrum of criminal-related matters, including suspected abductions, the sale and supply of unlawful drugs, stolen and lost property, details of detained persons and the handover of criminals within the existing legal framework. Cooperation through the Joint Communications Room continued to yield practical results, including procedures for the handover of four persons. In

addition, the Joint Communications Room exchanged information more than 40 times as part of an effort to find a 4-year-old child who had been abducted from Nicosia in April 2017. Following an extended police investigation, the child was returned safely to her mother in October.

20. Demonstrations within and close to the buffer zone continued. A total of 89 took place in support of various causes during the reporting period. The Force maintained good cooperation with the respective police services and, where possible, the organizers of the demonstrations to manage and monitor the events.

21. The Force increased its efforts to serve as convenor and connector by continuing to support Cypriots interested in reaching across the divide and engaging in intercommunal dialogue and cooperation. In the current absence of progress towards a political solution, such efforts are even more important to sustain confidence between the communities and help to create conditions conducive to a potential resumption of negotiations. In the reporting period, the Force supported 119 intercommunal activities organized by civil society actors, in which 8,034 people participated, twice the number compared with the same period in 2016. The Force also convened 59 intercommunal gatherings at Ledra Palace Hotel with more than 2,041 participants and three meetings of political party representatives under the auspices of the Embassy of Slovakia. In the context of its increased support to intercommunal and community engagement, UNFICYP significantly enhanced its efforts to work with civil society on gender issues, including through outreach to women's organizations in rural communities.

22. Two specific cases showed the potential of consistent and strategic work with key actors to boost their confidence to implement intercommunal projects on their own initiative. First, following two years of direct support from UNFICYP, on 30 June and 1 July, community representatives in the bicommunal village of Pyla staged bicommunal festivals, with minimal involvement of UNFICYP. Second, an innovative programme known as the Imagine project, launched on 2 October under the auspices of the Technical Committee on Education and endorsed by the leaders, provides children in schools in both communities with peace education and the opportunity for joint activities in the buffer zone during school hours. Scheduled to continue during the 2017/18 school year, the programme will benefit not only the participating students but also their families.

23. During the reporting period, various technical committees continued their work on confidence-building measures aimed at improving the everyday lives of Cypriots and encouraging and facilitating greater interaction among Cypriots on both sides of the island. Of the eight committees facilitated by UNFICYP, the most active was the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, which completed four major architectural restoration projects at Archangelos Michail Church, the Martinengo Bastion in Famagusta and two mosques in the villages of Agios Nicolaos/Aynikola and Agios Ioannis/Ayyani in the Paphos region. The Technical Committee on Crossings continued to work on opening the two new crossings at Lefka-Aplici/Lefke-Apliç and Deryneia/Derinya. A tender for the sections of road inside the buffer zone was issued in November. The work of both committees is carried out with funds from the European Commission, with support from the United Nations Development Programme.

24. Opportunities to visit and hold services at religious sites continue to be important to both communities. During the reporting period, UNFICYP facilitated the participation of more than 5,375 people in 34 religious services and commemorative activities, of which 27 were in the north and 7 in the buffer zone. During the same

period in 2016, a total of 36 were held, of which 29 were in the north and 7 in the buffer zone. The Force also facilitated the crossing of nearly 2,270 pilgrims from the northern part of Cyprus to the Hala Sultan Tekke mosque in Larnaca on 26 June, 5 September and 29 November. The pilgrimage on 29 November was the eleventh following the joint agreement of the religious leaders in 2014.

25. Given that such events constitute a significant confidence-building measure, UNFICYP noted with concern the decline in the number of applications for religious services that it was asked to facilitate in the north and a decline in the number of approvals for such services in comparison with the same period in 2016. The Force remained concerned about other restrictions that hampered religious worship on the island, including time limitations on religious worship in mosques in the south. All restrictions on the freedom of worship, including those relating to access to religious sites, should be lifted.

26. The religious leaders of Cyprus continued to demonstrate their commitment to joint dialogue and the promotion of religious freedom within the framework of the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process under the auspices of the Embassy of Sweden, with ongoing support from UNFICYP. During the reporting period, the religious leaders launched an unprecedented joint initiative to provide Greek- and Turkish-language classes for members of the clerical orders, nuns and laypersons working in different religious institutions. The participants meet weekly in the buffer zone, broadening the circle of dialogue and cooperation among the religious institutions.

27. On 28 September, the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), convened the third round table on human rights since 2013. OHCHR introduced the "Faith for Rights" initiative, launched in March 2017 with the adoption of the Beirut Declaration, in which faith-based civil society actors recognized "religious or belief convictions as a source for the protection of the whole spectrum of inalienable human entitlements". Religious leaders and representatives from 16 religious groups and civil society organizations participated in the discussion in Cyprus, and the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments were translated into Greek and Turkish by the Religious Track.

28. The Force continued, where possible, to address the concerns of 335 Greek Cypriots and 95 Maronites residing in the north through regular visits to their villages. Since 1 October, however, UNFICYP has been unable to continue to deliver food supplies and other items provided by Cyprus to those communities because of the decision by the Turkish Cypriot authorities to impose "duties" on those items. This unilateral decision ended the long-standing practice of UNFICYP pursuant to the provisions of the Third Vienna Agreement of 1975, in which it is stated that "the Greek Cypriots at present in the north of the island are free to stay and ... will be given every help to lead a normal life, including facilities for education and for the practice of their religion, as well as medical care by their own doctors and freedom of movement in the north". The Force has continued to deliver medical aid supplies, including oxygen bottles, which were not made subject to the "duties". Ensuring that sustainable care is provided to the vulnerable members of those communities remains important, and the Force is working with community members and relevant authorities to find practical ways forward in that regard.

29. At the beginning of the school year in September, the Turkish Cypriot authorities rejected 8 of the 282 textbooks proposed by the Government of Cyprus for use at Greek Cypriot schools in the north. They also rejected 3 of the 10 Greek Cypriot

teachers nominated to work at the schools on the Karpas Peninsula and denied the reappointment of two Greek Cypriot teachers who had previously worked there, disrupting the operation of the schools.

30. The Force continued to engage with Turkish Cypriots and the relevant authorities in Larnaca and Limassol to learn more about their access to health, welfare and educational services. There were no developments with regard to the establishment of a Turkish-language school in Limassol, although Turkish-speaking pupils continued to have access to Turkish-language education at a primary school and a high school in the town.

31. The Force assisted with the legal and humanitarian issues faced by three Greek Cypriots in the north and 11 Turkish Cypriots in the south through visits to the detention facilities in which they were held. In connection with the previously reported incident in November 2015, in which two vehicles belonging to Turkish Cypriots were targeted by young Greek Cypriots throwing stones, UNFICYP was informed that all but one of the court hearings to prosecute several individuals accused of those attacks had been postponed until early 2018. Despite repeated queries, UNFICYP received no additional information with regard to the one case that had been scheduled to be heard at the beginning of December 2017. A clear resolution of such cases would signal that such acts would not be tolerated in Cyprus and would contribute to building confidence between the two communities.

32. On 27 August, UNFICYP facilitated the post-mortem transfer of a Greek Cypriot man for burial in the north.

V. Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus

33. As at 15 December, the bicommunal team of archaeologists of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, a long-standing confidence-building initiative, had exhumed the remains of 1,212 persons on both sides of the island. This number is lower than the one reported in June 2017 as a result of carbon dating, which allowed the Committee to declare a number of remains to be irrelevant. To date, the remains of 855 missing persons, of a total of 2,002, have been identified and returned to their respective families, including, during the reporting period, those of 77 individuals. In line with the permission received in November 2015, the Committee has conducted, thus far in 2017, 11 excavations in military areas in the north, leading to the recovery of the remains of 23 individuals.

34. The Committee continued its efforts to gain access to archives that might contain information on burial sites of missing persons. Thus far, 10 of the 12 countries contacted have answered the Committee's request for cooperation. Further research was conducted in United Nations archives in Nicosia and New York, and relevant documents from those archives were shared with the Committee. Meetings with the authorities concerned took place in London, Vienna, Geneva, Athens and Cyprus. During the reporting period, the Committee also continued to receive valuable support from the Mine Action Service, notably through the training of staff in the operation of metal detectors.

VI. Transition planning

35. As requested by the Security Council, UNFICYP maintained its transition plans in relation to a settlement. No progress was made in the further elaboration of such

plans during the reporting period, however, because of the absence of new developments on the issue between the sides.

VII. Conduct and discipline and sexual exploitation and abuse

36. The Force held 16 training sessions for 710 military, police and civilian personnel on United Nations Standards of Conduct, including the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Force organized a special event on 23 June 2017 and used social media to highlight the Organization's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse.

37. During the reporting period, four category 2 allegations, not relating to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, were reported and referred for investigation. Three category 1 allegations and five category 2 allegations remain pending.

VIII. Financial and administrative aspects

38. The General Assembly, by its resolution 71/300, appropriated the amount of $54 million for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, inclusive of the voluntary contribution of one third of the net cost of the Force, equivalent to $18.3 million from the Government of Cyprus and the voluntary contribution of $6.5 million from the Government of Greece.

39. As at 18 December 2017, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNFICYP amounted to $11.3 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to $2,141.1 million.

40. Reimbursement of troop costs was made for the period up to 31 October 2017, while reimbursement of the costs of contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 30 September 2017, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IX. Observations

41. As stated in the report on my mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/2017/814), my good offices remain available to assist the sides should they jointly decide to reengage in negotiations with the necessary political will. I reiterate my encouragement to the sides to preserve the body of work based on the convergences and understandings reached in the course of the past years of negotiation and in the period from 15 May 2015 to 6 July 2017 in particular.

42. The Force will continue to contribute, through its activities and assistance to the communities, to creating conditions conducive to a successful settlement process, including by supporting relevant confidence- and trust-building initiatives.

43. Exploration for hydrocarbon reserves in Cyprus's exclusive economic zone remains an issue that could lead to tensions between the various stakeholders. As I have repeatedly stressed, it is important to ensure that any natural resources found around Cyprus will benefit both communities. I remain of the view that the existence of common natural resources provides a strong incentive for all parties to find a durable solution to the Cyprus problem and should engender deeper cooperation for

the benefit of all Cypriots and stakeholders in the region. I recall that Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot leaders had previously agreed that natural resources in a unified Cyprus would lie within the competence of the future federal government. It remains essential that all parties make every effort to defuse tensions.

44. I continue to urge greater efforts to create a climate conducive to achieving more economic and social parity between the two sides and to broaden and deepen economic, social, cultural, sporting and similar ties and contacts, including with a view to encouraging trade. Such contacts promote trust between the communities and help to address the concerns of Turkish Cypriots with regard to isolation. I urge both sides to persist in addressing those issues.

45. The commitment of both sides to the continuation of the work of the technical committees is welcomed. Both sides should further ensure that the committees can pursue their activities in a practical and results-oriented manner, unobstructed by bureaucratic constraints. In doing so, the committees can foster cooperation and contribute to improving the daily lives of Cypriots, as envisaged by the leaders when the committees were first established, while also fostering intercommunal exchange and cooperation and creating a climate conducive to the resumption of political negotiations on the island.

46. The Force continues to play an important preventive and deterrent role. Despite the continued presence of armed personnel along the ceasefire lines and the lack of direct contact between the two sides, the situation in the buffer zone remains calm, mainly because the Force contributes to resolving misunderstandings through careful observation combined with impartial and effective liaison and community engagement. As recommended in my report on the strategic review (S/2017/1008), the liaison and engagement functions of the Force should be strengthened across all mission components, given their importance in managing the increasing civilian use of the buffer zone and the parallel increase in disputes with the potential to cause tensions.

47. With the increasing civilian activity in the buffer zone, daily challenges to the authority of UNFICYP continue to be of concern. The ability of UNFICYP to play its role in maintaining a stable environment depends largely on the commitment of the two sides to refrain from challenging its authority, legitimacy and impartiality and to support it in its efforts to maintain calm. In this respect, I reiterate my call on both sides to avoid civilian construction activity both in and adjacent to the buffer zone, where it can be construed as providing a military advantage.

48. I urge both sides to support work to update the aide-memoire of 1989 to make it a mutually accepted guidance document for the effective management of the buffer zone. Through this work, agreement could also be sought on the exact delineation of the respective ceasefire lines, which, unhelpfully, remain disputed in places on both sides.

49. In addition to a stronger liaison role of UNFICYP and support for its authority in the buffer zone, progress towards resolving some of the daily issues and misunderstandings through information exchange between the sides could bring practical benefits to both communities. On numerous occasions, I have urged the sides to agree upon and implement mutually acceptable steps, including military confidence-building measures that could contribute to an environment conducive to a settlement. In the coming months, I urge the sides to make progress, even in small steps, towards developing their own mechanisms for alleviating tensions. The Force

stands ready to assist the sides in establishing new mechanisms or processes in that regard.

50. I recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNFICYP for six months, until 31 July 2018. I should like to thank the 36 countries that have contributed, since 1964, either troops, police or both to the mission. I pay tribute to the 186 peacekeepers who lost their lives over that period in support of peace in Cyprus.

51. The work of the United Nations in Cyprus is strengthened immeasurably through cooperation with local, regional and international actors. I should like to take this opportunity to thank those partners and in particular the European Commission, which provided assistance in a number of areas during the reporting period, including its support to the work on two new crossing points and to the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage and the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus.

52. The United Nations remains committed to supporting the important humanitarian work on behalf of the families of victims through the Committee on Missing Persons. In the light of the advanced age of both relatives and witnesses, it is essential that the Committee continue to receive sufficient financial support and the information, including from relevant archives, required to accelerate its work.

53. I should like to express my gratitude to Elizabeth Spehar for her service as my Special Representative in Cyprus, the Head of UNFICYP and my Deputy Special Adviser. Lastly, I extend my thanks to all the men and women serving in UNFICYP for their continued commitment to the implementation of the mandate of the Force.

Annex

Countries providing military and police personnel to the United Nations operation in Cyprus (as at 15 December 2017)

Country	*Military personnel*
Argentina	276
Austria	4
Bangladesh	2
Brazil	2
Canada	1
Chile	14
Hungary	77
Paraguay	14
Serbia	47
Slovakia	169
Ukraine	2
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	279
Total[a]	**887**

Country	*Police personnel*
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10
Bulgaria	1
China	7
India	4
Ireland	12
Italy	2
Lithuania	1
Montenegro	4
Romania	4
Russian Federation	5
Serbia	2
Slovakia	5
Ukraine	10
Total[a]	**67**

[a] Of the military personnel, 803 are men and 84 are women. Of the police personnel, 48 are men and 19 are women.

United Nations S/2018/26

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 January 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 8 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you with regard to the summary statement by the Secretary-General of matters of which the Security Council is seized and of the stage reached in their consideration, dated 2 January 2018 (S/2018/10).

I have the honour to inform you that the State of Kuwait requests that the following item, listed in paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned document, remain on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized:

66. The situation between Iraq and Kuwait.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mansour **Alotaibi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-00352 (E) 110118

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United Nations S/2018/27

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 January 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 9 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw to your attention the following information:

On the morning of Tuesday, 9 January 2018, the Israeli occupation authorities, once again, launched three rocket attacks at the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic. Coming at the start of the Christian new year, these attacks confirm beyond any doubt that Israel is pursuing a hostile approach that will cause the region to blow up and will only compound the difficult circumstances that it faces. Israel is doing all this in the service of its objectives of providing support for terrorism, perpetuating its occupation of Arab territory, and raising the morale of the terrorist organizations. That morale has plummeted following painful blows inflicted by the Syrian Arab Army in response to treacherous attacks carried out by those terrorist organizations in the Harasta area in the eastern Ghutah and the launch of over 200 missiles and mortar shells at residential neighbourhoods and suburbs of Damascus.

The repeated Israeli attacks against the Syrian Arab Republic have not and will not succeed in protecting the terrorist organizations — chief among them the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Nusrah Front organizations — that are Israel's partners and proxies. Neither will those attacks divert the Syrian Arab Army from continuing to achieve gains in combating terrorism in numerous parts of the Syrian Arab Republic, as it has most recently done in Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The Israeli occupation authorities would not be able to continually violate Security Council resolution 350 (1974) on the separation of forces and other Security Council resolutions and international counter-terrorism instruments were it not for the unconstrained support of the United States administration. That support provides Israel with immunity from accountability and allows it to continue to engage in State terrorism against the peoples of the region and threaten peace and security in the region and the world.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its warning to Israel about the dangerous consequences of its attacks against the Syrian Arab Republic and its continued support for armed terrorist groups, and holds Israel fully responsible for those actions. Syria once again calls on the Security Council to condemn these flagrant Israeli attacks, and calls for resolute and immediate measures to be taken under the Charter of the United Nations to stop these attacks and hold Israel accountable for them.

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I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/ES-10/766–S/2018/28

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
15 January 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 9 January 2018 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to draw your attention to the ongoing critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and, more specifically, to the grave reality faced by Palestinian children as a direct result of the Israeli military occupation.

Over the past half century of occupation, Palestinian children have continued to bear the brunt of Israel's increasingly oppressive, violent and illegal policies and practices. With each passing day, their vulnerability continues to deepen as generation after generation knows only life under occupation and that of an occupying Power that continues to commit human rights violations and brutal crimes against them, their families and their land with complete and utter impunity.

One detrimental aspect of the practices and policies of the occupying Power that has left thousands of children traumatically scarred is Israel's mass arrest campaigns throughout the Occupied State of Palestine. Palestinians, as an occupied people, are protected persons under article 4 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention). However, Israeli occupying forces continue to systematically suppress and arbitrarily detain Palestinians by the thousands. It should also be noted that these mass arrest campaigns are part and parcel of Israel's collective punishment measures that are in direct violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, namely, article 33, and article 50 of the Regulations respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land (Hague Regulations), which specifically prohibits collective punishment.

Since 1967, nearly 800,000 Palestinians, including children, some as young as 12, have been kidnapped and imprisoned by the occupying Power in its near-daily military raids into towns, villages and cities. Today, there are more than 6,500 Palestinian detainees and prisoners in Israeli jails. This number includes 588 women, 450 administrative detainees, 22 journalists and 10 elected Palestinian officials. This staggering number also includes 350 children. Even more shocking is that, since 2000, more than 12,000 Palestinian children have been detained by the occupying Power. Moreover, of those Palestinian children arrested or detained, approximately 700 under the age of 18 are brought to trial every year through Israeli military courts. The most

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common charge imposed against Palestinian children is throwing stones at armed Israeli occupying forces and armoured army vehicles, a crime that, under the occupying Power's military law, is punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Moreover, data compiled by Defence for Children International Palestine since January 2015 show that 86 per cent of Palestinian children experienced some form of physical violence during their arrest or interrogation. Defence for Children International Palestine has also reported that, unlike their Israeli counterparts, Palestinian children have no right to be accompanied by a parent and, in the majority of cases, no access to legal counsel during interrogation. Moreover, ill-treatment, including reports of torture, of Palestinian children remains widespread and systematic in the Israeli military detention system. It is further reported that children arrested by Israeli forces arrive at Israeli interrogation centres blindfolded, bound and sleep deprived, according to documentation of Defence for Children International Palestine.

Children also continued to report that they were subjected to coercive and violent interrogation techniques intended to extract confessions, including confessions drafted in Hebrew, a language that most Palestinian children do not understand. Despite the recommendations made by the Committee against Torture in May 2009 that Israeli interrogations of Palestinian children should be video recorded, no provisions to that effect have yet been enacted.

It is important to recall that in the Convention on the Rights of the Child a "child" is defined as "every human being below the age of eighteen years". This internationally agreed norm is respected by Israel with regard to Israeli children who commit offences. However, Palestinian children who have allegedly committed offences against the occupation are tried as adults at the age of 16. One 16-year-old who knows all too well the illegal practices and policies of the occupying Power is Ahed Al-Tamimi. She is one of the 490 Palestinians, including 148 children and 11 women, who have been arrested or detained by the occupying Power since 6 December 2017.

On 19 December 2017, Israeli occupying forces violently entered and raided the home of the Al-Tamimi family in the West Bank village of Nabi Saleh. They did so in the middle of the night while the family was asleep and arrested Ahed. The reason for her arrest was a video that had gone viral on social media of her encounter, on 15 December 2017, with a member of an armed Israeli occupying force who was positioned on her family's land. When Ahed's mother, Nariman, attempted to ask the Israeli occupying forces about the whereabouts of her child, she too was detained. A so-called Israeli military court indicted Ahed on five counts of assault for "attacking" two occupying forces. A final hearing has been scheduled for Ahed on 15 January 2018.

Context is important here. The Al-Tamimi family is well known in the international arena for its peaceful activism against the Israeli occupation and its crimes against the village of Nabi Saleh. In 2009, the Al-Tamimi family and the villagers of Nabi Saleh began a weekly peaceful protest against Israel's illegal wall and confiscation of land for the purposes of building illegal settlements. Ahed, who at that time was only 8 years old, participated with her family and community in these peaceful protests. Ahed's father, Bassem, was born in 1967, the first year of Israel's occupation of the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. Like all Palestinians living under occupation, Bassem's entire life has been marked by daily violence, humiliation and oppression.

Ahed's latest encounter with Israeli occupying forces is not her first. When she was only 10 years old, Israeli occupying forces arrested Ahed's mother, while photographers captured her crying and running frantically after the armoured military vehicle that her mother was in. On 31 August 2015, another video went viral, as Ahed

and her mother were photographed trying to free her 11-year-old brother from a member of an Israeli occupying force who was choking him.

In addition to the mental and emotional trauma that she and her family have endured, Ahed has also suffered physical harm at the hands of the Israeli occupying forces. On separate occasions, she was shot at with rubber bullets and sustained injuries to her foot, neck and hand during anti-occupation marches in her village. Her father has also been detained and arrested nine times. On one occasion, during an interrogation, he was beaten so badly that he suffered a concussion that left him in a coma for 10 days. In 2011, Ahed lost a cousin who had been shot in the face with a tear gas canister fired from the back of an Israeli army jeep. A year later, Ahed's uncle died after being shot by Israeli occupying forces. In addition, her mother was arrested five times and shot in the thigh in November 2014. Even Ahed's home, a place where she should feel safe and secure, has been constantly threatened by demolition orders by the occupying Power under the bogus pretext of being "built without a permit". Lastly, a week before the latest encounter with Israeli occupying forces, Ahed's cousin, Mohammed Al-Tamimi, aged 15, was shot in the face by a rubber-coated bullet. After being placed in a medically induced coma, Mohammed is now stable but has been left with a swollen, fragmented and scarred face.

Clearly, there is nothing normal about Ahed's life. The same goes for nearly all Palestinian children who witness and endure the same type of tragedies and brutality by a ruthless occupier. Ahed, like all other Palestinian children, yearns to live a life free from occupation and violence, a life in which all children should be able to grow up in an environment enveloped in peace and security and with human dignity.

We demand that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately end all its violations and abuses against Palestinian children and comply with its obligations under international law, including, inter alia, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict. All Palestinian prisoners and detainees, especially children such as Ahed, must immediately be released from Israeli detention and prison facilities. There are international standards for the treatment of children, and Palestinian children are no exception. The occupying Power must not be appeased as it persists with its flagrant violations and crimes against the Palestinian people. Rather, Israel must be made to understand that one day it will be held accountable for all of its human rights violations against the Palestinian people and for its unlawful occupation and colonization of their land. It is high time to end the culture of impunity that has allowed Israel to commit such grave crimes against a defenceless, occupied people for far too long without consequence.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 622 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 5 January 2018 (A/ES-10/765-S/2018/18), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations S 2018/29

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 January 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 10 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you in reference to the summary statement by the Secretary-General of matters of which the Security Council is seized and of the stage reached in their consideration, dated 2 January 2018 (S/2018/10).

In this connection, I have the honour to inform you that upon instructions of my Government, Tunisia requests the retention of the following items, listed in paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned document, on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized:

63. Letter dated 1 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17509);

64. Letter dated 19 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/19798).

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohamed Khaled **Khiari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-00433 (E) 120118

Please recycle

United Nations S/2018/30

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 January 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 10 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 6–10 January 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 10 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (6 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported five incidents of gunfire: three in Aleppo Governorate and two in Ladhiqiyah Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported four incidents in the following Governorates: two in Damascus, one in Aleppo and one in Idlib.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

No humanitarian operations have been carried out by the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,719 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,378.7 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 23 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 67,795 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, one ceasefire agreement has been signed with Wasitah in Aleppo Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,322.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (7 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported five incidents of gunfire: three in Aleppo Governorate and two in Ladhiqiyah Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported four incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: one in Aleppo, one in Damascus, one in Idlib and one in Ladhiqiyah.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

No humanitarian operations have been carried out by the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,719 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,378.7 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 53 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 67,848 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours one ceasefire agreement has been signed with Shamsin in Homs Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,323.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (8 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported nine incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: six in Aleppo, two in Ladhiqiyah and one in Damascus.

The Turkish representative office has reported five violations: four in Damascus Governorate and one in Hama Governorate.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

No humanitarian operations have been carried out by the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,719 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,378.8 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 34 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 67,882 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,323.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (9 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported seven incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: four in Aleppo, two in Ladhiqiyah and one in Homs.

The Turkish representative office has reported two incidents: one in Damascus Governorate and one in Idlib Governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

No humanitarian operations have been carried out by the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,719 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,378.69 tons.

One humanitarian convoy was sent through the United Nations to Tayybah, in Dar'a Governorate, consisting of 28 United Nations refrigerated trucks (products, household goods) with a total weight of 180 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 25 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 67,907 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,323.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah Governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (10 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported four incidents of gunfire: three in Ladhiqiyah Governorate and one in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported seven incidents: four in Idlib Governorate and three in Damascus Governorate.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours one humanitarian operation has been carried out by the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides. A total of 2.6 tons of food was delivered to the local population of Salamiyah in Hama Governorate.

In total, 1,720 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,381.3 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 46 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 67,953 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours a ceasefire agreement has been signed by Abbudiyah in Homs Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,324.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchenged — it is still 234.

United Nations A/72/712–S/2018/31

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
23 January 2018
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda item 37
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 9 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information.

On 24 November 2017, at 1130 hours, on the outskirts of the town of Kafr Tibnit, while civilian Rami Abdulkhaliq was working in a minefield as part of a Mines Advisory Group demining team, a landmine left behind by the Israeli occupation exploded, causing him light injury.

On 7 December 2017, at 1600 hours, near point BP-34 in the village of Markaba in Wadi Hawtin, while civilian Mahdi Hassan Shu'aytu was inspecting land belonging to him, a landmine left behind by the Israeli occupation exploded, causing him extensive injuries that resulted in the amputation of his left foot.

I reiterate that the Government of my country honours its commitments under international resolutions, and on its behalf I hereby demand that the Security Council condemn this act of aggression in the strongest possible terms, and compel Israel to cease its air, sea and land violations of the sovereignty of Lebanon and implement all its obligations under Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Amal **Mudallali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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